

Giants Again Find Key to the Cellar, Superbas Lose Too, but Yankees Win

Wagner Does Little But the Giants Lose

Pirates Drive Perritt from Box Without Aid from the "Aged" Hans—
Babe Adams in Fine Fettle.

By HEYWOOD BROUN.

According to popular conception his name is Hans, and he is an aged person who thinks like George Sylvester Viereck and talks like Weber and Fields. It's not true.

Wagner did not play much of a part when the Pirates defeated the Giants by a score of 6 to 2 at the Polo Grounds yesterday, but justice to him is much more important than any baseball game. So here are the facts:

His name is not Hans at all but John. He was born in Pennsylvania, close to the American border, and at an early age he foresaw allegiance to Boies Penrose and vowed loyalty to the United States. He speaks English of a sort, which he picked up from Barney Dreyfuss.

Wagner never wrote a letter to a newspaper protesting that the shipment of arms and ammunition was a violation of neutrality, he never invented an excuse for the violation of Belgium's neutrality and he does not drink beer. In other words, he is not a German.

John P. Wagner frequently has been referred to as a "grand old man." Nobody ever thought of calling Theodore Roosevelt anything like that, nor the Colonel is sixteen years older than Wagner. Billy Sunday has eleven years the better of Hans. Elihu Root beats him by twenty-nine and Joe Cannon is the senior of the shortstop by thirty-eight years.

Just now Theodore Roosevelt is doing double duty defending a libel suit and rooting for war. Joe Cannon has only recently achieved a come back. Billy Sunday has boozed on the ropes and Elihu Root is going to run for President. John Wagner is not too old to play baseball.

John P. Wagner loves fish, chickens, automobile gas checks and have hits. He lives in Pittsburgh. He is half-legged and he has long arms. Once upon a time he was a good hitter. That's all we know about him except the fact that his favorite hunting dog is called Jason Weatherby.

We hesitate to give this last bit of information, for it came from a story in a Sunday newspaper. One of George Ade's characters was kicked in the middle of the spine and therefore behaved everything he read in the Sunday papers. Anyway, this paper was printed in 1912, and there's no telling how time has treated Jason Weatherby in the intervening years. The climate of Pittsburgh is so trying.

But if Time has ever tried to touch Hans Wagner, it missed him by a great deal. He is an unusual base runner marks with his hands for the benefit of the umpire. Hans did not get a hit yesterday, but he made a sacrifice fly, and his arm is as good as ever. One of the balls he threw went all the way to the stand in back of first base.

Other Pirates made up for the hitting which Wagner did not do, but mostly they just trusted to Bill Perritt, who had locked up the box in the second inning. Babe Adams pitched steadily and had no great difficulty in holding an early lead.

A fate which guided many a hard-hitting ball straight into the hands of fielders made the task of Adams a little easier than it might have been if luck had remained neutral. Max Carey made the feature play of the game by stealing home in the eighth inning. Max was hit that day, but he was very wild and Adams was second best. Perritt then pitched a rising curve, but doesn't pitch moderately well for the next five innings, and Bill Ritter finished the game.

Schupp yielded two runs in the fifth.

The walk to Baird, a double by Hinckley, Wagner's sacrifice fly and Vioz's single past Fletcher were the factors in the one-pitcher's victory.

The Giant hacked one run off the seven in the back in the latter half of the inning. Schupp doubled to right and then hit a triple with a fast ball and McGraw took his pitcher out.

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